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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

22581 U.S.PTO
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Title: SERVICE CASE

Prior Appl. No.: 10/223,760
60/314,196

Prior Appl.: 08/19/2002;
Filing Date: 08/22/2001

Prior Examiner: Ali, Mohammad, M.

Art Unit: 3744

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
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CONTINUING PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL LETTER AND COMMUNICATION

Attached are the following documents for filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) as a:

Continuation Division Continuation-In-Part (CIP)

of the copending prior Application No. 10/223,760, filed August 19, 2002 (the "Parent Application") in which no patenting, abandonment, or termination of proceedings has occurred. Priority to the above-identified prior Applications is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119(e) and 120 for this continuing application. The entire disclosure of the above-identified prior applications are considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuing application and are incorporated by reference.

Enclosed are:

Specification, Claims, and Abstract (17 pages).
 Formal drawings (6 sheets, Figures 1-6).
 Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76).

The filing fee is calculated below:

| | Claims as Filed | Included in Basic Fee | Extra Claims | Rate | Fee Totals |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Basic Fee | | | | \$770.00 | \$770.00 |
| Total | 36 | - 20 | = 16 | x \$18.00 | = \$288.00 |
| Claims: Independents: | 3 | - 3 | = 0 | x \$86.00 | = \$0.00 |
| If any Multiple Dependent Claim(s) present: | | | | + \$290.00 | = \$0.00 |
| | | | | SUBTOTAL: | \$1058.00 |
| [] Small Entity Fees Apply (subtract ½ of above): | | | | | = \$0.00 |
| | | | | TOTAL FILING FEE: | \$1058.00 |

[X] A check in the amount of \$1058.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

[X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this Application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Drawings

The Present Application has been filed with formal drawings (6 sheets with Figures 1-6) based on the informal drawings originally filed in the Parent Application.

Claims

Independent Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2-13 correspond to Claims 1-13 as allowed in the Parent Application.

Independent Claim 15 and dependent Claims 16-23 correspond to Claims 30-38 as allowed in the Parent Application.

Independent Claim 26 and dependent Claims 27-31 and 35 correspond to Claims 39-45 as allowed in the Parent Application.

New dependent Claims 14, 24-25, 32-34 and 36 were added to provide claims of varying scope.

The Applicants believe that the combinations of subject matter, taken as a whole, recited in the Claims are patentable and are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the references cited in the Parent Application, alone or in any proper combination.

Support for Claims 1-36 is provided in the Specification as originally filed in the Parent Application. The Applicants have included amendments in the Specification of the Present Application for clarity and to more closely relate to the claimed subject matter of the Present Application. The Applicants believe that no new matter has been introduced into the Specification.

Priority Claim/Related Application

The Present Application is a continuation of, and claims the benefit of priority as available under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to, co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/223,760, filed August 19, 2002, which claimed the benefit of priority as available under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/314,196, filed on August 22, 2001.

The Applicants expressly withdraw any and all claim amendments and remarks (including remarks directed to or about any cited reference) and other statements made in connection with the Parent Application, or in connection with any related application. The Applicants do not intend any prior claim amendment or remark or statement in the parent application or any related application to have any effect on the prosecution or scope of any claim in the Present Application.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Present Application is a continuation of co-pending Parent Application (Serial No. 10/223,760). It is the understanding of the Applicants that the Examiner will consider in the Present Application all materials and information that have been submitted for consideration in the Parent Application. See M.P.E.P. § 609.

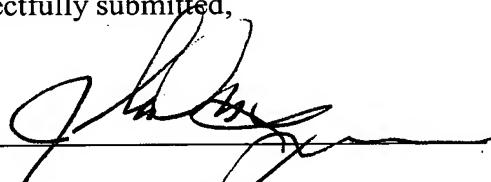
It is the understanding of the Applicants that under M.P.E.P. § 609, such materials and information from the Parent Application are available and need not be resubmitted in an Information Disclosure Statement in the Present Application.

* * *

Please direct all correspondence to the undersigned attorney or agent at the address indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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Date MARCH 19, 2004

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